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GENERAL

1. Bevin fears adverse UN decision on Libya--The Department of State has been informed by the British Ambassador in Washington that Foreign Secretary Bevin has expressed his alarm that the Italian colonies issue is "getting out of hand" in the UN General Assembly. Bevin fears that a GA decision to establish a closely unified Libya would frustrate the conclusion of the desired Anglo-Cyrenaican treaty on defense arrangements; he also believes that GA appointment of an advisory council or high commissioner would be contrary to these British aims. Bevin has voiced these fears to US Ambassador Douglas in London and has declared that if the GA should reach such a decision, the UK would withdraw entirely from all the former Italian colonies. In criticizing the US position in this matter, Bevin pessimistically predicted that in five years "the Russians would be in both the Middle East and the former Italian colonies."

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that Bevin's concern over the possible frustration of British strategic aims in Cyrenaica is genuine but doubts that the UK would actually withdraw from the Italian colonies under the circumstances described.)

2. Dutch want SC advised of Indonesian situation--US Representative Cochran in The Hague reports that the Dutch Government, believing that a grave situation now exists in Indonesia, has requested that the situation be brought to the attention of the UN Security Council. Cochran has urged the Dutch not to take such action, expressing the belief that the situation is "more critical than usual but not hopeless." Cochran reiterates his view that the Dutch Government should agree on a financial settlement with the Indonesian Republicans, thus enabling the Hague Conference to end successfully within the next few days.

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3. US attitude toward proposed Syrian-Iraqi union--The Department of State has informed British representatives, concerning a possible Syrian-Iraqi union, that the US would not oppose a union of peoples responsive to their freely expressed will but would disapprove the use of force or intervention to accomplish such union. The Department adds, however, that the US is reluctant to adopt an attitude favoring, acquiescing in, or disapproving the proposed union in advance of open and constitutional discussion of the matter in Syria and Iraq and before the Syrian and Iraqi Governments have consulted with other countries which may feel themselves affected.

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